

Art Unit: To be assigned  
Serial No.: 09/936,756

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- - DE 196 46 665 A1 describes a process for metering physical propellants, wherein a propellant is added at high pressure to the softened plastic material transported in the consuming device, e.g. an extruder or an RIM machine, and the amount of propellant is regulated with a pressure control valve, which keeps the pressure difference constant via a rigid throttle means by regulating the pressure difference in dependence on the flow of propellant. The extrusion processes described here are continuous processes in which the propellant is continuously added.- -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- - A process for the production of injection molded articles with foamed core is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,548,776, according to which gaseous or gas-generating chemical propellant is already added to the melt in the extruder, is thoroughly mixed with this and the already foamed melt is then injected into the mold.- -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- - The cavity 1 can be ready filled as desired and required up to the maximum filling quantity with melt mixed with propellant or, as shown in FIG. 1D, propellant-free melt can again be fed to the cavity in a third stage. In this case a foamed article is obtained which has a compact firm external skin all around which is formed by propellant-free melt.- -